

AFDC – Foster Care

DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR SERVICES

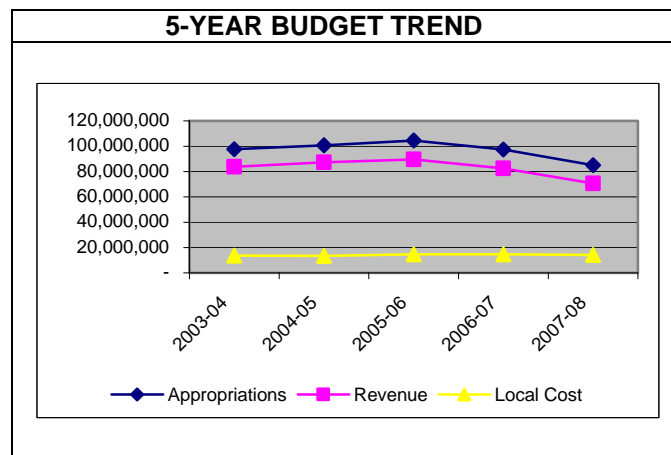
This program provides aid payments for children living in foster homes and group-care facilities. The Foster Care caseload consists of cases from both the Department of Children's Services (DCS) (approximately 90%) and Probation (approximately 10%). The cost of Probation related foster care cases is approximately 4.5 times greater than DCS cases due to the higher levels of care required for these juveniles.

There are two funding eligibility criteria in the Foster Care Program, federal (federal, state and county participation) and non-federal (state and county only). Foster Care placements are generally eligible for federal financial participation if the parents meet the previous Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program criteria.

- For federally eligible (federal) cases, the cost-sharing ratios are approximately 43% federal, 22% state, and 35% county.
- For non-federally eligible (non-federal) cases, the cost-sharing ratio is 40% state and 60% county.
- All county share-of-cost is mandated and is reimbursed from Social Services Realignment and the county general fund.

There is no staffing associated with this budget unit.

BUDGET HISTORY



PERFORMANCE HISTORY

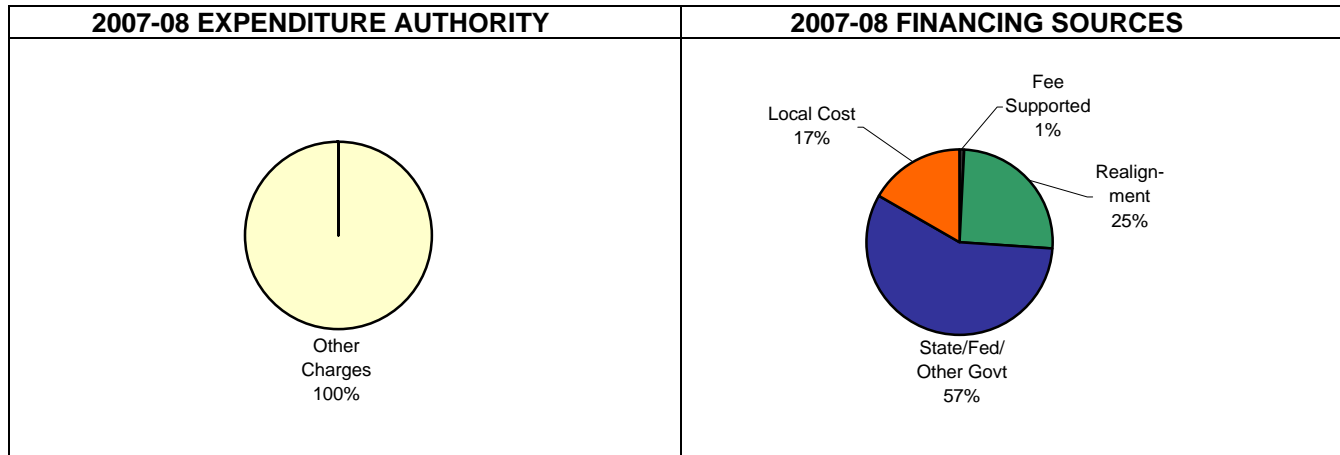
	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Actual	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Modified Budget	2006-07 Estimate
Appropriation	96,259,224	96,488,529	94,195,015	97,376,873	81,327,189
Departmental Revenue	82,481,186	82,904,560	79,357,104	82,654,830	66,608,845
Local Cost	13,778,038	13,583,969	14,837,911	14,722,043	14,718,344

Foster Care caseload has experienced a slow, but steady decline in recent years, partly due to cases shifting from the Foster Care program into the Kin-Gap program. A decrease in the number of petitions filed also contributes to the caseload decline. As a result, the 2006-07 estimate was prepared with the anticipation that caseload would continue to decline at the historical rate. Most of this decline is a result of Federal cases dropping at a rate that is 18% lower than budgeted.

In 2004-05, the Department of Children's Services implemented a "Family to Family" program. One of the goals of this program is to place children in their own neighborhoods and reduce placements in the more costly Foster Family Agencies and Group Homes whenever possible. This appears to have slowed the increase in cost per case. Compared to the prior year, 2006-07 costs for Federal cases have increased less than 1% (a 3% increase had been budgeted) and case costs for Non-Federal cases decreased 13%.



ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED BUDGET



GROUP: Human Services
DEPARTMENT: AFDC - Foster Care
FUND: General

BUDGET UNIT: AAB BHI
FUNCTION: Public Assistance
ACTIVITY: Aid Programs

	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Actual	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Estimate	2006-07 Final Budget	2007-08 Proposed Budget	Change From 2006-07 Final Budget
Appropriation							
Other Charges	95,390,547	95,519,773	93,317,246	81,327,189	97,376,873	85,012,850	(12,364,023)
Transfers	868,677	968,756	877,769	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriation	96,259,224	96,488,529	94,195,015	81,327,189	97,376,873	85,012,850	(12,364,023)
Departmental Revenue							
Realignment	23,778,136	25,839,465	20,934,763	17,721,161	24,345,072	21,336,609	(3,008,463)
State, Fed or Gov't Aid	57,770,706	56,225,689	57,335,742	48,279,033	57,509,758	48,600,153	(8,909,605)
Current Services	827,040	819,252	1,060,578	600,000	800,000	800,000	-
Other Revenue	105,304	20,154	26,021	8,651	-	-	-
Total Revenue	82,481,186	82,904,560	79,357,104	66,608,845	82,654,830	70,736,762	(11,918,068)
Local Cost	13,778,038	13,583,969	14,837,911	14,718,344	14,722,043	14,276,088	(445,955)

Other charges of \$85.0 million represent aid payments for children living in foster homes and group-care facilities.

Foster Care caseload has experienced a decline in recent years, partly due to cases shifting from the Foster Care program into the Kin-Gap program. After experiencing accelerated caseload decreases in the first half of 2006-07, the department is projecting that the rate of decrease will slow in 2007-08.

It is projected that the costs of foster care cases will continue to increase. Based on the average increase of the last five years, the average cost per case in 2007-08 is projected to increase approximately 0.5% over estimated average cost per case in 2006-07.

In 2006, the federal government demanded of the state that the federal share of all identified foster care overpayments be immediately repaid, retroactive to October 1, 2003. It has been determined that San Bernardino County's share of this demand will be approximately \$1.9 million. Sufficient appropriation has been added and revenue from Social Services Realignment has been included in the budget year to cover this payment, if necessary.

Local cost savings of approximately \$0.45 million are projected in this budget unit. These savings will be utilized to offset additional local cost needed in other HS Subsistence Budget units to allow HS to remain within local cost targets, overall.

